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TWO CONVICTED OF MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FRAUD

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DARRA PANTHAKY, of Los Angeles, CA and WESLEY SINE, 67, of Salt Lake City, UT , were convicted last Friday, February 4, 2005, of four counts of mail fraud. The guilty verdict was returned by a federal court jury in Sacramento after a nine-day trial before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Norman Y. Wong and John K. Vincent, who are prosecuting the case, the evidence introduced at trial showed that the defendants obtained money from people by promising to pay very high rates of return. The defendants also falsely represented that if the money was not repaid, SINE, an attorney who was acting as the trustee of Alpha Funding Group Trust, would sell Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) securities to make up the loss. In fact, the defendants had no access to such securities, and losses exceeded five million dollars.

The defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on April 18, 2005 at 9:30 am by Judge Damrell. PANTHAKY was in custody during trial, and SINE was remanded into custody following the jury's verdict.

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